



May 6, 1988

Ms. M. S. Litus  
Environmental Engineer  
Tenneco Minerals  
P.O. Box 1167  
Green River, Wyoming 82935

Dear Ms. Litus:

Re: Review of Operator Deficiency Response to Original Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations, Tenneco Minerals Company, Goldstrike Project, M/053/005, Washington County, Utah

The Division has reviewed your latest April 4, 1988 resubmittal for the proposed Goldstrike mining project. As a consequence of a recent turnover in our minerals technical staff, the review of the hydrologic sections of your deficiency response have not been completed. This letter contains all of our review comments except for the hydrology portions. A new hydrologist, D. Wayne Hedberg, has taken over David Wham's vacancy and is currently reviewing your hydrology response. It is anticipated that this review can be completed and forwarded to you by the end of next week. We apologize for the delay and any inconvenience this may cause.

Summary of Second Review:

Item III-12, pages 23-26, - Toxic Materials:

1. The initial areas of concern have been addressed adequately under this section. The operator has committed to performing an acid-base potential analysis on the sulfide ore that will be generated as waste material, during the course of mining. The analysis will be sent into the Division, when complete, and incorporated into the plan as Appendix E.

Section V, pages 35-40, - Reclamation:

1. The operator has adequately addressed Division concerns regarding final reclamation slope gradients on the leach pads, waste dumps, and leach pad foundation. However, upon final reclamation, most of the proposed hillside slopes will be some 200 feet in length with no breaks. The Division suggests that the operator leave contours or setbacks on the leach pad slopes, upon final reclamation. This would reduce the erosion potential of the exposed hillsides.



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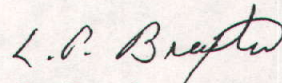
2. During a recent phone conversation between Mr. Shepherd of the Division and Ms. Litus, the topic of hydromulching the steeper slopes at the minesite, was discussed. It was agreed that if hydromulching was to be used, that it should be applied in a two step process; by seeding first, then applying the mulch, tackifier and fertilizer. This commitment will need to be made part of the reclamation plan.

Item VII, page 41, - Surety Estimate:

The regrading, topsoiling, and revegetation cost estimates are adequate. It is our understanding that the Bureau of Water Pollution Control (BWPC) may require additional analysis and testing than what is described in Tenneco's decommissioning estimate. Please review the decommissioning details with Charlie Dietz of BWPC and update the estimate as necessary. Please provide this office with a copy of any revised decommissioning estimates.

It is suggested that Tenneco wait until the hydrology review is forwarded to you before responding to the concerns identified above. We will make every attempt to send our remaining comments to you by the end of next week. Again, thank you for your cooperation and patience. Please contact me or Holland Shepherd should you have any questions or concerns with this review document.

Sincerely,



L. P. Braxton  
Administrator  
Mineral Resource Development  
and Reclamation Program

re  
cc: M. Stairwalt, Tenneco, St. George  
F. Rowley, BLM, Cedar City  
C. Dietz, WPC  
H. Shepherd  
W. Hedberg  
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